

Having thus, described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A powertrain unit, comprising a continuously variable transmission mechanism for continuously varying a speed of rotation output by a rotational drive force, a housing for accommodating said continuously variable transmission mechanism, and a dipstick removably mounted in said housing for checking an oil level therein;

said continuously variable transmission mechanism comprising a swash plate plunger pump, a swash plate plunger motor and a closed hydraulic circuit connecting said pump and said motor,

one of said swash plate plunger pump and said swash plate plunger motor being of a fixed displacement and the other being of a variable displacement;

wherein the outer circumference of a casing of said one of said swash plate plunger pump and said swash plate plunger motor comprises a reduced diameter swash plate supporting portion;

wherein said dipstick comprises a handle portion and a gauge portion attached to and extending away from said handle portion, and wherein said gauge portion of said dipstick extends within said housing from an area near the outer circumference of said reduced diameter swash plate supporting portion down to the bottom of said housing.

2. A powertrain unit according to claim 1, further comprising an engine integrally connected with an upper portion of said housing, an input power transmission

mechanism provided in said housing for transmitting output rotation of said engine to said swash plate plunger pump, and an output power transmission mechanism provided in said housing for transmitting output rotation of said swash plate plunger motor to an output shaft;

wherein a multi-use oil is stored at the bottom of said housing, and wherein said multi-use oil is usable as a hydraulic oil for said swash plate plunger pump and said swash plate plunger motor, as a lubricating oil for said engine, and also as a lubricating oil for said input and output power transmission mechanisms.

3. The powertrain unit of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a dipstick tube on a surface thereof for receiving the dipstick; wherein the dipstick is removably mounted in the dipstick tube; and wherein the dipstick tube extends outside the housing by a distance which is less than the length of the handle portion of the dipstick.

4. A powertrain unit, comprising a continuously variable transmission mechanism for continuously varying a speed of rotation output by a rotational drive force, a housing for accommodating said continuously variable transmission mechanism, and a dipstick removably mounted in said housing for checking an oil level therein;

wherein said continuously variable transmission mechanism comprises a swash plate plunger pump having a casing with a reduced diameter swash plate supporting

portion;

wherein said dipstick comprises a handle portion and a gauge portion attached to and extending away from said handle portion, and wherein said gauge portion of said dipstick extends within said housing from an area near the said reduced diameter swash plate supporting portion of said pump casing down to the bottom of said housing.

5. The powertrain unit of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a dipstick tube on a surface thereof for receiving the dipstick; wherein the dipstick is removably mounted in the dipstick tube; and wherein the dipstick tube extends outside the housing by a distance which is less than the length of the handle portion of the dipstick.